

**Claim Amendments:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface coating solution comprising:  
a water-based solution including a polymer in an emulsion; and  
activated boehmite particles provided in the water-based solution in an amount of 0.1 wt% to 20.0 wt%, the activated boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1; wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 mils; and wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance of at least 7 mils and is essentially free of associative thickener.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises an acrylic.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The surface coating solution of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance between about 7 mils and 12 mils.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 10% by weight of the surface coating solution.

11. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 10, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

12. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than 30 minutes.

13. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers.

14. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 13, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

15. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein said aspect ratio is not less than 6:1.

16. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of not greater than 3:1.

17. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

18. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 17, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 75 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

19. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 18, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measure by the BET technique between about 100 and about 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

20. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than 15 seconds.

21. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the pH of the solution is greater than 7.0.

22. (Currently Amended) A surface coating solution comprising a latex emulsion and activated boehmite particles in an amount between 0.1 wt% and 20.0 wt%, the activated boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1 and a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers, wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 ~~mils~~, and wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance of at least 7 mils and is ~~essentially~~ free of an associative thickener.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance of ~~at least~~ between 7 mils and 12 mils.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

27. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than 30 minutes.

28. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

29. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have at least a 6:1 aspect ratio.

30. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of no more than 3:1.

31. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

32. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 31, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $75 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

33. (Currently Amended) The surface coating solution of claim 32, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique between  $100$  and  $350 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

34. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than 15 seconds.

Claims 35-54 (Canceled)

55. (New) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the flow and leveling is between 6 and 10.

56. (New) The surface coating solution of claim 55, wherein the flow and leveling is between 6 and 7.

57. (New) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the flow and leveling is between 6 and 10.

58. (New) The surface coating solution of claim 57, wherein the flow and leveling is between 6 and 7.

59. (New) A surface coating solution comprising:

a latex emulsion; and

boehmite particles in an amount between 0.5 wt% and 10.0 wt%, the boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1 and a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers;

wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling between 6 and 10 and a sag resistance in a range of 7 mils to 12 mils;  
wherein the surface coating solution is free of an associative thickener.